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United States Government Accountability Office
Washington, DC 20548

December 3, 2004

The Honorable Duncan Hunter
Chairman, Armed Services Committee
House of Representatives

Subject: Medical Readiness of Reserve Component Personnel

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Concerning Public Law 108-375 (section 732), that requires us to review various aspects of the medical readiness of reserve component personnel involved in Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom, we contacted your staff on November 18, 2004, to gain a further understanding of your needs. Please see attachment I for a list of other members from cognizant committees with whom we will be coordinating this engagement.

Due to the complexity and scope of the issues to be addressed, we need to proceed with a separate design phase. The purpose of this letter is to set forth the study objectives and provide you with a completion date for the design phase. The overall objectives of our work would be to address to what extent:

- were reserve component members determined to be medically unfit or in need of medical care when called to duty, and why,
- did the health status of activated reservists have on logistics planning and deployment schedules,
- did the reserve components comply with DOD policies regarding routine medical and physical fitness examinations, and
- was medical care provided to activated reserve component members in theater as a result of pre-existing medical conditions not addressed prior to deployment.

The design phase will be completed by March 18, 2005. We will remain in contact with your staff, and at the end of the design phase, we will provide you with a projected completion date for the total study. Should you have any questions, please contact me on (202) 512-5559 or StewartD@gao.gov, or Ms. Brenda Farrell, Assistant Director, on (202) 512-3604 or FarrellB@gao.gov.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Derek B. Stewart".

Derek B. Stewart
Director, Defense Capabilities and Management

Enclosure